(c) A supplement to the Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) of 1988 is under negotiation with the Russian Federation. A few financial terms remain to be settled in the supplement to the Inter Governmental Agreement 1988. Following the settlement of pending issues the supplement is expected to be signed at an early date paving the way for the preparation of the Detailed Project Report.

Developing a prototype for Fast Breeder Test Reactor

2484 SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) when was the Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR) at Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam commissioned, alongwith the details of the installed capacity and the capacity utilisation achieved during the last two years, year-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to spend Rs. 2500 crores for developing a prototype for a 500 MW FBTR during the Ninth Five Year Plan; if so, whether the amount has been sanctioned;

(c) what are the details of the proposal alongwith details of estimated power likely to be produced under the proposal and the quantity of power presently would be given; and

(d) what is the present total requirement of nuclear power in the country and the quality of power present being produced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) The Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR) at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalpakkam is an experimental reactor. It attained its first criticality on 18th October, 1985 with a small core. The reactor has an installed capacity of 40 Mega Watt (Thermal) (i.e., MWt) and 13.2 Mega Watt (Electrical) (i.e., MWe) with a full core of 65 fuel sub-assemblies. The reactor has been used extensively for various physics and engineering experiments, including irradiation and post-irradiation studies of carbide fuel. At present, the reactor is operating at the power level of about 12 MWt with 27 fuel sub-assemblies and generating about 1 MW of electricity. The turbogenerator of the reactor was synchronised with the Tamil Nadu electrical grid in July, 1997. In 1996, the reactor operated at the power level of 10.5 MWt without generating electricity.

(b) and (c) A 500 MWe capacity Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) has been proposed for inclusion in the IX Plan starting with a provision of Rs. 82 crore in the year 1999-2000. The project, estimated to cost Rs. 2960 crore is expected to take nine (9) years from the date of commencement of construction.

(d) The quantity of power produced by the Nuclear Power Stations during July, 1997 is 907 million units as against the target of 600 million units. The Vision-2020 Programme of the Department of Atomic Energy envisages about 20000 MWe of installed capacity by the year 2020. This is subject to approval of several new nuclear power projects and availability of funds.

Uranium Deposits in Gujarat

2485 SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recent surveys uranium deposits were found in Gujarat;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, and

(c) by when Government propose to start mining of uranium in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Promotion of computer software industry in Orissa

2486. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken by Government to promote computer software industry in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that adequate steps have not been taken to promoted computer software industry in Orissa;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor.

(d) whether there is a vast scope to promote computer software industry in that State; and

(e) if so, the possibilities explored in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Government of India, Department of Electronics has set up Software Technology Park at Bhubaneshwar to promote software industry in the State of Orissa. In addition, the Department of Electronics has supported implementation of computer courses viz. Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Application (PGDCA), Master of Computer Application (MCA), B.Tech. and ITI level in various Universities/Educational Institutes in the State for development of manpower in software area.

Production of electronic goods

2487. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that production in the electronic industry during the Eighth Five Year Plan has been below the targets;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have any plan for increasing the production of electronic goods; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the terminal year 1996-97 of VIII Five Year Plan, the total electronics production was Rs. 26,640 crores as against Eighth Plan target of Rs. 36,000 crores. This represented 74 per cent of targets and the electronic industry achieved cumulative growth of 20 per cent in production. During VIII Plan there has been a mixed performance in different sectors with Consumer Electronic and Communication and Broadcasting Equipment growing more rapidly than other hardware Sector. The Software sector exceeded what was targetted.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Working Group on Electronic Industry set up for IX Plan by the Planning Commission has set a goal of electronics production of Rs. 138,350 crores for the terminal year of the IX Plan (2001-02) representing a growth rate of about 37 per cent. In order to achieve the said production